GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3852
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2001
NATIONAL FOODGRAINS DISTRIBUTION POLICY
NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the absence of any uniform national distribution policy on foodgrains, the people are starving in many states and huge surplus of goodgrains is mounting with FCI;

(b) if so, wheter several experts have also urged the Governments to come out with a national foodgrains distribution policy; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a)(b)&(c): Only about 15% to 20% of the total production of foodgrains in the country is procured by Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies for central pool. As such the supply of foodgrains to consumers under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is only supplemental in nature.

In order to address the problems emerging from the changed scenario in the food sector, Government has decided to constitute a High Level Committee on 16 November, 2000 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen, Ex-Chairman, Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices to recommend a Long Term Grain Policy for the country. The Terms of Reference of the Committee are as follows:-

i) Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) and Price Support Operations.
ii) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) related issues.
iii) Functioning of the Public Distribution System (PDS).
iv) Grain Policy regarding buffer stocks, open market intervention and export/import
v) Allocation of foodgrains in Rural Development and other Welfare Programmes.

The Committee has so far not submitted its final report.